EPITAPH To A Week

By LARRY POWELL

A Texarkana man who finally — after several years — had married off all his daughters found after all that last wedding he'd given his daughter — and his car — to his new son-in-law.

Standing in front of the church after the ceremony — and looking every bit as penniless as he claims he is — he bemoaned to his relatives, "Well, I came over here with a daughter and a car and I don't have either one now. Will somebody give me a ride home?"

OF COURSE, there's always room for sentimentality at the wedding of the youngest daughter. You know, the baby of the family and all that. And the father-in-law is drenched in some of that sentimentality.

He's been a father-in-law for more years than he either cares to remember or admit, and a grandfather for a while, too; but when the preacher asks, "Who gives this woman in marriage?" and this old timer says "Her mother and I," you can sense a great deal of pride and a feeling of relief.

NOT THAT he didn't think he'd ever see the youngest girl marry, but it was that new pair of shoes. When he got to sit down after escorting the bride to the altar, he was the only person in the church who really appreciated getting a load off his feet. Someone said his old shoes had been tied to the back of the newlywed's escape vehicle. "Maybe I'll get those shoes back," he said, limping along to the punch bowl.

SEVERAL OF the bride's aunts failed to make a dash for the bouquet-catching ceremony. "I'm not sure Medicare will cover any injuries like this," one of them said.

And weddings seem to point out just how young people are when they fall in love. This same bride buried her bouquet into a crowd of well-wishers and a second-grader caught it.

Weddings bring up memories and old wive's tales and, strangely enough, old husband's tales, too. For instance, there's the one — and it's all true — about the newlywed husband from Texarkana who checked into a motel — with his bride, of course — and, with his fully-decorated car in plain view of the desk clerk, asked, "Does this room we're taking have a television?"

"No sir," the smiling clerk answered.

"Well, can you get one?" the groom asked.

"No sir," the now chortling clerk replied.

So, the couple sat down in the lobby and watched the house television until the late show ended. "I even remember the feature," the father of three recalls. "It was 'King Kong'." Well, maybe you do have to go to a lot of trouble to see a good movie.

WHILE ON the honeymoon, newlyweds from Texarkana, Tex., can have the Texas City Police watch their home. This service, provided each summer for vacationers, whether they be newly-weds, or a couple on the second honeymoon or couples on their way to Las Vegas for a quickie divorce, has proven to be popular. The department keeps a watch on a vacationer's home to keep him from being stolen blind while he's in some tourist hangout being expertly relieved of all cash or undergoing the same treatment in divorce court.

Anyway, a local disc jockey in a public service announcement, punctuated a description of the police service with, "And if you'll treat these officers real nice, they might even water your grass while you're gone, depending on what kind of grass it is."

OTHER UNIFORM activity this summer includes basic training for certain members of the Army Reserve. Like one Texarkanan whose family, like he other boys' families, received a letter from some base brass asking that the trainees not be sent cookies or other such items from home while in basic training.

This particular Texarkanan found one morning last week that Grandma—bless her heart—sent him a box of cookies. Later in the day, after the excitement of mail call had subsided, this Texarkanan found himself eating the cookies in front of the rest of the barracks, but only after the warm-hearted drill sergeant had decorated each cookie with a layer of cream — shaving cream.

Howard To Chair Confab

Gazette's Austin Bureau

AUSTIN, TEX.–State Rep. Ed Howard of Texarkana will preside over the Second Annual Texas Interstate Compact Commissioners' Conference when it meets at Texarkana Nov. 5 and 6 to discuss interstate river compacts, the Texas Water Plan and water problems in general.

Texarkana Mayor D.W. Wisdom will welcome the commissioners to the conference at the Howard Johnson's Convention Center, and State Sen. A.M. Aikin Jr., of Paris will offer the keynote address.

Ralph Elliott of Sherman, Tex., commissioner of the Red River Compact, will report to the conferees on negotiation, operation and administration of the interstate agreement. Also making reports will be Texas compact commissioners on the Rio Grande and Sabine, Canadian and Pecos Rivers.

Executive Director Howard Boswell of the Texas Water Development Board will describe the progress of the Texas Water Plan, and State Repl John Allen of Longview will outline water resource study needs.

Brig. Gen. H. R. Parfitt, Southwest Division of the Corps of Engineers, will speak to the conference on channel maintenance downstream from floodcontrol projects. Regional Director Leon W. Hill of the Bureau of Reclamation will describe water losses to "Non-beneficial" uses and Regional Director Richard Vanderhoof of the Federal Water Quality Administration will speak on the water quality of interstate streams.

Sunshine Crew Plans Program

Members of the Sunshine Crew, Rehabilitation Committee of Barracks 1119, Veterans of World War I will present an entertainment program Tuesday for the resident patients of the Four State Nursing Home.

The Sunshine Crew will attend a watermelon feast Aug. 13, at Green Acres Lake near the Mosley Nursing Home.

IN THE TWIN CITIES

Week in Review

A petition calling for a change in the type of city government for Texarkana, Ark. was filed Tuesday the Committee for a Representative Government.

The change would make the Arkansas-side government a city administer form, with four city directors elected from wards, and three directors and a mayor elected at large.

The group was told previously the change in the form of government would give veto power to the mayor, but the group pushed for the change in government despite the warning.

The special election called for by the petition filed Tuesday with county clerk W.H. (Abe) Dempsey, may be at least 60 days away, if state and county officials work on maximum time limits as set by Arkansas Law.

The CHG collected about 850 signatures for the petition according to a spokesman for the group. Under Arkansas law, 15 per cent of the voters that voted in the previous directors race receiving the most votes are required on petition. The requirements on the petition for the CRG was 663.

N.H. Hilliard, chairman of the CRG, said the committee decide to continue its push for a change in government despite the fact that change in government would include veto power for the mayor elected at large.

Willis B. Smith, city attorney, said the state law concerning such elections required the county clerk to certify the signatures on the petition as qualified voters within 10 days after the filing of the petition. Smith said the petition with certification by the county clerk would be sent to the Arkansas secretary of state.

If the secretary of state is satisfied the signatures are qualified, he is required by law to issue a proclamation calling for an election which is to be held not less than 30 days nor more than 50 days from the date the county clerk made the certification.

The present form of government on the Arkansas-side features seven directors elected at large.

FOUR MODEL CITIES PROGRAMS were approved by Arkansas-side directors and a fifth program was slated for later discussion in an effort to wind up the first year model cities program.

The board of directors also approved an ordinance restricting junkyards within the city and voted to install new parking meters and increase overparking fines.

LIBERTY-EYLAU SCHOOL TAXES were raised by the district's school board from $1.56 to $1.80 to comply with state and local fund assignment.

According to the Texas Education Agency, the local fund assignment will be boosted from $25,821 to $30,874 for the district.

TEXAS-SIDE CITY COUNCILMEN viewed the city's proposed 1970-71 budget with city manager Ben Mizell and city department heads.

TEXARKANA HOUSING AUTHORITY received a grant and loan contract for $600,000 under the Urban Renewal Neighborhood Development Program for the Arkansas-side.

The Grant and loan contract was awarded to the authority by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ATLANTA SAYS YES

Queen City Councilmen Reject Gas Rate Hike

By BOB WEST
State Editor

Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company's 10 cent rate hike proposal brought a rejection by Queen City and an "iffy" OK from Atlanta this week.

Queen City was the first of the 27 East Texas cities in which Arkla is seeking the increase, to turn down the proposal. The issue will go before the Texas Railroad Commission if Queen City sticks to its guns.

"We'll wait and see what the commission says," Mayor Lupton Willis of Queen City said. However, he added, "If we are approached in a different way, we might accept."

Atlanta city council voted to accept the increase conditionally. The condition was the same as that stipulated in the approvals by city officials in Gilmer and Mt. Pleasant that the hike would be allowed if all the other cities agreed to it.

Since Queen City has rejected the hike it would appear Gilmer, Mt. Pleasant and Atlanta would also deny approval. However, Atlanta Mayor Russell Alexander said that if Queen City or other cities veto the hike, Atlanta will renegotiate the issue with Arkla.

Willis said, "The council felt the company should be entitled to a profit but was wary of the company's approach to the issue. Arkla stated that an 18 cent raise was needed in good business interests but that the first would settle for a 10 cent raise." Willis said the council feels there is some question what a reasonable hike should be and it is possible the railroad commission could set a rate of less than a 10 cent raise.

Alexander said Atlanta's council had never opposed the 10 cent hike but was seeking better service. The Arkla policy which the city was seeking changed — extending gas lines no more than 150 feet from the last connection — still remains, Alexander said.

STATE HEALTH Department approval of the plans for Atlanta's proposed $1.5 million sewer renovation project gives impetus to the city's plans to submit a bond issue for financing about two-thirds of the cost.

The state department has stated the engineering specifications for building sewer lines and a treatment plant have met building requirements. Atlanta got in its application for a $490,000 grant from the Texas Water Quality Board on June 29, just in time to be considered for funds from the fiscal year which ended July 1.

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J78-14	8.85-14	42.90*	21.45*	3.01
F70-15	7.75-15	34.75*	17.37*	2.45
G78-15	8.15/8.25-15	36.80*	18.40*	2.60
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